

Cathedral (Roman Catholic)
Cincinnati
Hamilton County
Ohio

HABS No. 0-638

HABS
OHIO
31-CINT
8-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
Cincinnati District

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Headquarters Office
for Cincinnati District (OHIO-6)

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CATHEDRAL OF ST. PETER IN CHAINS

4485
OHIO
2-1-11
2

Location: Southwest corner of Eighth and Plum Streets,
Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio.

Present Owner: Roman Catholic Diocese of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Present Use: Roman Catholic Church.

Brief Statement
of Significance: This cathedral, designed by Architect Henry Walter
and built 1840-1845, was restored in 1957.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Roman Catholic Diocese of Cincinnati [See Brochure on The Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains, published at time of rededication after remodeling and engargement 1953 to 1957].
2. Date of erection: 1840-1845.
3. Architect, builder, suppliers etc.: Henry Walter Architect, of Cincinnati. Remodeling by Edward J. Schulte, Architect, of Cincinnati. Limestone supplied by canal from quarries near Dayton, Ohio.
4. Original plans, construction etc.: (None given).
5. Notes on alterations and additions: Except for entrance porch and lovely spire, it was completely gutted, remodeled and enlarged between 1953 and 1957. Photograph included in this photo-data book shows gutted interior behind removed west wall.
6. Important old views and referenced:

Views: Spire recognizable in old print--Cincinnati in 1846--page 768, Vol. 1, Historical Collections of Ohio by Henry Howe. Seven photos (1940) listed in Historic American Buildings Survey catalog (prior to enlargement of 1953). Photo, page 119, A History of Ohio, by Roseboom and Weisenburger.

References: Page 210, The Ohio Guide.

Brochure on The Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains, published 1953 to 1957.

Ohio Yearbook, page 64, on Lafcadio Hearn (scaled tower for a story for his newspaper), 1955, in Ohioana Library.

- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: The tower was scaled by Lafcadio Hearn for a story for his newspaper-- page 64, Ohio Yearbook, 1955, Ohioana Library.
- Cathedral was consecrated in 1845; see Brochure on The Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains, published by the Diocese at the time of rededication in 1957.

Prepared by Perry E. Borchers
February 10, 1959

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: This cathedral has an exceptionally beautiful old tower. In 1845 it was deemed "the finest building in the West, the most imposing, in appearance, of any of the cathedrals in the United States, the metropolitan edifice of Baltimore not excepted". (Cincinnati in 1851 by Charles Cist).
2. Condition of Fabric: Completely cleaned and restored 1953-1957.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: High nave and basement; it was originally a simple rectangular nave.
2. Foundations: Masonry in original portion of building.
3. Wall construction: Dayton limestone; quarries reopened for enlargement of 1953-1957.
4. Chimneys: A tower, said to be 221 feet high -- Page 64, The Ohio Year Book, Ohioana Library, 1955.
5. Openings: All new since restoration and additions: 1953-1957. Stone lintels of original windows were all broken.
6. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Pitched roof; new copper covered.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Stone.
 - c. Dormers: None.

C. Technical Description of Interiors

Photographs in photo-data book 1951 and 1953 show original condition of interior and interior gutted for remodeling. Interior is completely rebuilt now.

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Addendum to

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PA-COUNTY

PHOTOGRAPHS